

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13597 251102Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSM-03 SCS-06 CA-01 ICA-11
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /048 W
-----111967 251955Z /65
R 251059Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9539
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13597

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SHUM CASC EG
SUBJECT: INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS IN ASSIUT

REF: CAIRO 13324

1. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD MISSIONARY GATLIN, ACCOMPANIED BY NEW YORK SUPERIOR, RETURNED TO EMBASSY MAY 24 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN ASSIUT. EMBOFF REPEATED THERE APPEARS BE NO FOUNDATION TO REPORTS OF ANY DEATHS IN ASSIUT. SAID EMBASSY HAD CHECKED WITH COPTIC LEADERSHIP AND ARE ASSURED REPORT CITED BY GATLIN IS INCORRECT. GATLIN ACCEPTED THIS, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY. CLAIMED HE HAD RECEIVED YET ANOTHER THIRD-HAND REPORT OF CHRISTAIN DEATHS.

2. EMBOFF URGED GATLIN TO TREAT SUCH STORIES WITH EXTREME CAUTION AND NOT TO PASS THEM TO THIRD PARTIES. WARNED GATLIN IT POSSIBLE ACCOUNTS PEDDLED BY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING EXACERBATE INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS.

3. EMBOFF NOTED BISHOP SAMUEL'S ADVICE THAT ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WOMEN NOT ENGAGE IN PROSELYTIZING BUT CONFINE THEIR ACTIVITIES TO ASSISTING ORPHANAGE. ALSO ADVISED GATLIN GIVE WOMEN USUAL CAUTIONS ON DEALING WITH MIDDLE
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EASTERN SOCIETY.

4. EMBOFF SPECIFICALLY DENIED EMBASSY HAD ADVISED GATLIN LEAVE ASSIUT LAST YEAR. SAID SO LONG AS GATLIN FOLLOWS ADVICE OUTLINED ABOVE, THERE NO REASON HE COULD NOT RESIDE THERE ON REGULAR BASIS. NOTED COPTIC AUTHORITIES AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT AND HAVE POINTED OUT ORPHAN-

AGE IS VERY POPULAR LOCAL INSTITUTION, SERVING MUSLIM
COMMUNITY AS WELL AS CHRISTIAN.

4. COMMENT: GATLIN MADE LITTLE COMMENT BUT APPEARED
SOMEWHAT MORE UPBEAT. MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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